

sponsibility of this legislation? I mean not, Sir, with what particular individual, but what party. For in these days we approach the people as parties; they elect us as parties; we legislate as parties; and as parties will they hold us responsible for such legislation. And although gentlemen may deprecate any allusions to the political parties of the country in the present discussion, as the gentleman from Halifax (Mr. B. F. Moore) has done, yet such allusions are natural and cannot be registered. And, Sir, I hold them to be entirely proper at this time, for if there is one subject touching our government in which the people have a deeper interest than any other, it is the subject of public economy. All parties when asking for power profess to be the particular champions of a strict economy in administering the affairs of government, and it is but right, that the people should see their acts to enable them to determine what party carries its professions more effectually into practice.

It has already been stated in debate, by the gentleman from Wake (Mr. Wilder)⁸ that the Whig party had the ascendancy in both branches of the Legislature, when the acts authorising the Public Treasurer to endorse the bonds of the Raleigh and Gaston Rail Road Company were passed, and that the Journals will show the fact, that the Whigs *as a party* voted for, and the Democrats *as a party* voted against their passage. There being individual exceptions among both parties, this position has not nor cannot be controverted. But it has been replied to by the gentleman from Halifax (Mr. Moore,) who, (although he deprecated any allusions to party by the gentleman from Wake (Mr. Wilder,) nevertheless took occasion to make an out and out political speech himself,) by calling the attention of the House to certain proceedings of Internal Improvement Conventions, held in the years 1833, '36 and '38, in which prominent men of both parties took part. The gentleman has fixed the names of distinguished democrats to addresses to the people in favor of works of internal improvement, and to memorials to the Legislature, recommending certain projected works to their favorable consideration. The gentleman by his ancient learning and antiquated documents, has most certainly established one fact, viz: that both parties were once in favor of a system of Internal Improvements; and

⁸ Gaston H. Wilder, graduate of the University of North Carolina, 1838; planter; member of the House of Commons from Wake County, 1842-1846, 1852; member of the State Senate 1854-1856. Connor, *Manual*, 1913, 813.